

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 097234
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
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DRAFTED BY EB/AN:ARIMAS:BA
APPROVED BY EB/AN:RABROWN
CAB:FMURPHY
AF/W:TSMITH (INFO)
AF/C:SBLODGETT (INFO)
AF/W:BKIRKPATRICK

-----300320Z 073239 /14

P R 291953Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY ACCRA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IV

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US-IVORY COAST NEGOTIATIONS

1. SUBJECT TALKS ADJOURNED APRIL 29, AFTER IVORIAN DELEGATION ANNOUNCED THEY HAD TO RETURN TO IVORY COAST IN TIME FOR IMPORTANT AIR AFRIQUE MEMBER MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 3. TWO-DAY NEGOTIATING SESSION RESULTED IN AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE STATUS QUO RE OPERATIONS OF PAN AM AND AIR
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AFRIQUE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS NEGOTIATIONS ARE RESUMED LATER THIS YEAR. SAVANE, GUIRMA, DIOUF AND KOFFI (OF IVORIAN EMBASSY/WASHINGTON) CONSTITUTED IVORIAN DELEGATION. OA NOTES OF SESSIONS, ALONG WITH MEMORANDUM OF CONSULTATION, WILL BE POUCHED TO ABIDJAN.

2. NEGOTIATIONS WERE CONCERNED ALMOST ENTIRELY WITH ISSUE

OF ROUTE SCHEDULES. AFTER IT WAS MADE CLEAR TO IVORIANS THAT GRANT OF MIAMI TRAFFIC RIGHTS TO IVORY COAST COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AT THIS TIME, SAVANE INDICATED THAT ROUTE PACKAGE AGREED TO IN OCTOBER 1976 TALKS WOULD HAVE TO BE REVIEWED IN LIGHT OF US REFUSAL TO GRANT MIAMI ROUTE. ACCORDINGLY, AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION, HE PROPOSED FOR US A ROUTE AS FOLLOWS: POINT IN US-ABIDJAN-LIBERIA-GHANA-NIGERIA OR ZAIRE-KENYA-COUNTRY BELOW 10 DEGREES SOUTH LATITUDE. A TECHNICAL STOP (WITHOUT TRAFFIC RIGHTS;

NOT EVEN STOP-OVER RIGHTS) WOULD BE ALLOWED AT DAKAR, IF NEEDED. AFTER SELECTING NIGERIA OR ZAIRE, THE US COULD ALSO MAKE TECHNICAL STOPS IN THE COUNTRY NOT SELECTED. TRAFFIC RIGHTS BETWEEN DAKAR AND ABIDJAN WERE RULED OUT COMPLETELY WITH AN EXPLANATION THAT THE AIR AFRIQUE COUNTRIES WERE TAKING A STRONG POSITION AGAINST THE GRANT OF SABOTAGE RIGHTS TO THIRD COUNTRY AIRLINES AND THAT THE OVERALL ISSUE WOULD BE ADDRESSED INTERNALLY DURING THE AIR AFRIQUE MEMBER MEETING ON MAY 3. THE US ROUTE WILL BE DISCUSSED FURTHER DURING SUBSEQUENT ROUND OF TALKS.

3. USDEL AGREED TO A ROUTE FOR IVORY COAST AS FOLLOWS: IVORY COAST-LIBERIA-GUINEA-SENEGAL-NEW YORK, AND BEYOND TO MONTREAL. IVORIAN REQUEST TO INCLUDE BOTH MONTREAL AND TORONTO WAS COUNTERED WITH OFFER TO GRANT ONLY ONE OF TWO CANADIAN POINTS. IVORIANS SELECTED MONTREAL.

4. PENDING RESUMPTION OF TALKS, IT WAS AGREED THEN PAN AM AND AIR AFRIQUE COULD CONTINUE PRESENT LEVELS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OPERATIONS. AT CONCLUSION, IVORIANS EXPRESSED DESIRE THAT NEXT ROUND BE HELD IN ABIDJAN. USDEL REPLIED THAT TIME AND VENUE QUESTION SHOULD BE DECIDED LATER.

5. TALKS WERE BUSINESSLIKE AND FRIENDLY. PACE OF DISCUSSIONS WAS HURRIED IN VIEW IVORIAN DEL NEED TO CONCLUDE TALKS EARLY FRIDAY AFTERNOON IN TIME TO MAKE DESIRED AIRLINE CONNECTIONS TO ABIDJAN.

CHRISTOPHER

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